

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 20515 261859Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----121340 261900Z /43

O 261855Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6072

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20515

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALISTS AND ARMENIAN FAMILY

REF: STATE 217756

1. EMBOFF, SPEAKING IN NAME OF AMBASSADOR, READ STATEMENT AS REVISED REFTEL, TO PENTECOSTALISTS AND MRS. OVSEPYAN EVENING OF AUGUST 26. THEIR REACTION WAS UNANIMOUS, PROMPT AND EMOTIONAL: THEY SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE DRAGGED FROM EMBASSY, THAT A TERRIBLE FATE--WHICH NEITHER AMBASSADOR NOR EMBASSY UNDERSTOOD--AWAITED THEM OUTSIDE, THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO DIE FROM STARVATION RATHER THAN SURRENDER THEMSELVES TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES. EMBOFF DID NOT ARGUE WITH THEM, BUT REPEATED THAT HE HAD READ THEM AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE AMBASSADOR. THEY ASKED THAT THEIR RESPONSE BE CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR, WHICH EMBOFF UNDERTOOK TO DO.

2. COMMENT: WITH PASSAGE OF TIME, RESOLVE OF PENTECOSTALIS TO STAY IN EMBASSY SEEMS TO HAVE STRENGTHENED. THIS PROBABLY STEMS IN LARGE PART FROM THEIR PERCEPTION, THROUGH THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH RESIDENT U.S. JOURNALISTS AND OTHER VISITORS TO CONSULAR LOBBY, THAT THEIR POSITION ENJOYS STRONG SUPPORT IN THE WEST. MRS. OVSEPYAN, WHO  
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IS EMOTIONAL AS WELL AS STUBBORN, NOW SEEMS EVEN MORE CONVINCED THAT SHE HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO STAY IN THE EMBASSY AND HOPE FOR THE BEST. WE FRANKLY DOUBT THAT ANY APPEAL TO REASON WILL PERSUADE THEM TO LEAVE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE WILL PONDER WHAT FURTHER STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THIS DIFFICULT CASE, AND TRUST DEPARTMENT WILL DO SAME. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EMBASSIES, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-B  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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